

Written Amendment
(Amendment based on Section 11)

To Mr. Hiroshi YAMAMURA, Examiner at the Patent Office

1. Identification of the International Application
PCT/JP03/09781

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4. Object of Amendment: Claims

5. Contents of Amendment

(1) As shown in a separate sheet, we amend claim 1 that reads:

"A method of producing a polarizing film, comprising the steps of: allowing a hydrophilic polymer film to swell in which the polymer film is conveyed by means of a guide roll so as to be impregnated in an aqueous solvent in a swelling bath; dyeing the polymer film using a dichroic substance; and stretching the polymer film, wherein in the swelling step, at least a first guide roll is arranged in the swelling bath, and when the polymer film is impregnated in and allowed to travel in the aqueous solvent, the polymer film is brought into contact with the first guide roll by the time when swelling reaches a saturation state." to read:

"A method of producing a polarizing film, comprising the steps of: allowing a hydrophilic polymer film to swell in which the polymer film is conveyed by

means of a guide roll so as to be impregnated in an aqueous solvent in a swelling bath; dyeing the polymer film using a dichroic substance; and stretching the polymer film, wherein in the swelling step, at least a first guide roll and a second guide roll~~is~~ are arranged in the swelling bath, and when the polymer film is impregnated in and allowed to travel in the aqueous solvent, the polymer film is brought into contact with the first guide roll by the time when swelling reaches a saturation state and further is brought into contact with the second guide roll after the swelling reaches the saturation state."

(2) As shown in the separate sheet, claim 2 was cancelled.

6. List of appended documents

A new page 48 (translation: page 45), in claims

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of producing a polarizing film, comprising the steps of:

5 allowing a hydrophilic polymer film to swell wherein the polymer film is conveyed by means of a guide roll so as to be impregnated in an aqueous solvent in a swelling bath;

 dyeing the polymer film using a dichroic substance; and
 stretching the polymer film,

10 wherein in the swelling step, at least a first guide roll and a second guide roll are arranged in the swelling bath, and

 when the polymer film is impregnated in and allowed to travel in the aqueous solvent, the polymer film is brought into contact with the first guide roll within a time up to when swelling reaches a saturation state and further
15 is brought into contact with the second guide roll after the swelling reaches the saturation state.

2. (Cancelled)

20 3. The method according to claim 1,
 wherein a required length of time (a) between the time when the polymer film is brought into contact with the aqueous solvent and the time when the polymer film is brought into contact with the first guide roll is 0.6 to 12 seconds.

25 4. The method according to claim 2,
 wherein a required length of time (b) between the time when the polymer film is brought into contact with the first guide roll and the time when the polymer film is brought into contact with the second guide roll is 13 to 120
30 seconds.

5. The method according to claim 4,
 wherein a total length of time of the required length of time (a) and the required length of time (b) is in a range of 25 to 180 seconds.